

CORE VALUES

Guidance for the General Management Plan stems from the Mission Statements of the Department and the Division, and the Purpose and Significance Statements that have evolved through the planning process. The core values found in these statements must be reflected in this long-range General Management Plan for Algonac State Park and subsequently reflected in any shorter range action plans:

DNR Mission Statement - *"The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural resources for current and future generations."*

PRD Mission Statement - *"Acquire, protect, and preserve the natural, historic, and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources and provide public recreation and educational opportunities."*

The core values derived from these statements are that PRD will acquire, preserve and protect; (1) natural resources, (2) cultural resources, (3) provide public recreation, and (4) provide educational opportunities.

Park Purpose - Park purpose statements are based on park legislation, legislative history, special designations and DNR policies. These statements reaffirm the reasons for which Algonac State Park was identified as part of the State Park system.

- To provide public access to, and viewing of, the St. Clair River with its busy water-based traffic of freighters and pleasure boats, near a densely populated region.
- To preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources for current and future generations
- To preserve and protect the park's historic/cultural resources
- To provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences that are compatible with the park's resource(s) base.
- To provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the mission of the DNR and the unique qualities of Algonac State Park.

Park Significance - Park significance statements capture the essence of the park's importance to our state's natural and cultural heritage. These statements describe the distinctiveness of Algonac State Park. Understanding these distinctions help managers make decisions that preserve those special resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purposes.

- Algonac State Park, located on the international border with Canada, is contained within the St. Clair Flats, the largest freshwater delta system in the world.
- This coastal park is ecologically important in that it contains remnant and restored lakeplain prairies and oak savanna openings which are some of the rarest natural communities, with unique biological diversity, in Michigan, the nation, and globally.
- Algonac State Park provides year round recreational opportunities along the St. Clair River scenic corridor, with a strong connection to the viewing of the St. Clair River and Great Lakes shipping/boating activities.
- Algonac State Park contains culturally sensitive resources of Native American and European occupation and activities.
- Algonac State Park offers excellent opportunities for research, education and interpretation in the areas of:
 - The unique ecological systems of lakeplain prairies, oak savannas and great lakes marshes.
 - Great Lakes shipping, boating and fishing.
 - Cultural aspects of Native American and European life.

Legal Mandates - For all park General Management Plans, all legal mandates will be identified and will serve to further guide the development of the General Management Plan and subsequent Action Plans. For our planning purposes, the term “Legal Mandates” refers to not only state law, but also the administrative tools of “Policy” and “Directive” of the Natural Resource Commission, the Department, and Parks and Recreation Division. Specific to Algonac State Park, the following legal mandates have been identified:

- PA 451 OF 1994, PART 741 - STATE PARK SYSTEM - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT - This act is the recodification of law that established the Michigan State Park System and defined the powers and duties of same. Notable in this law is Section 324.74102 which identifies the duties of the department and reinforces those core values cited above.

This section reads:

- (1) “The legislature finds:
 - (a) Michigan State Parks preserve and protect Michigan’s significant natural and historic resources.
 - (b) Michigan State Parks are appropriate and uniquely suited to provide opportunities to learn about protection and management of Michigan’s natural resources.
 - (c) Michigan State Parks are an important component of Michigan’s tourism industry and vital to local economies.

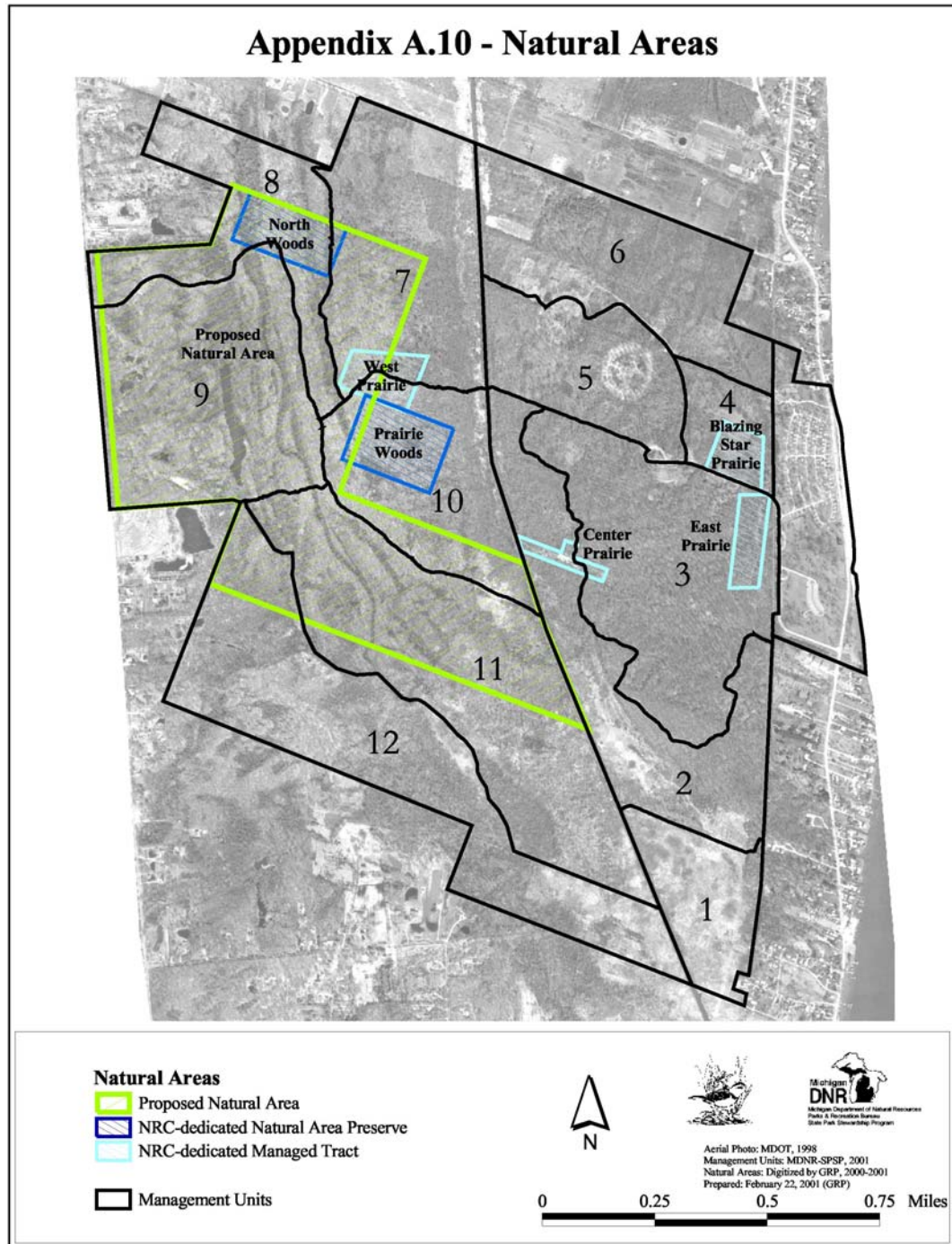
- (2) The department shall create, maintain, operate, promote, and make available for public use and enjoyment a system of state parks to preserve and protect Michigan's significant natural resources and areas of natural beauty or historic significance, to provide open space for public recreation, and to provide an opportunity to understand Michigan's natural resources and need to protect and manage those resources."
- PA 451 OF 1994, PART 351 – WILDERNESS AND NATURAL AREAS - NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT
This is an act... "to protect the environment and natural resources of the state..." Within this law are three designations (definitions); "NATURAL AREA", "WILD AREA", and "WILDERNESS AREA".

Portions of Algonac State Park fall under this law with areas identified as "PROPOSED NATURAL AREA" that by this law, must be treated as a designated "NATURAL AREA". SECTION 324.35105 – PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES, identifies that the following cannot occur on state land in a Natural Area, Wild Area, or Wilderness Area:

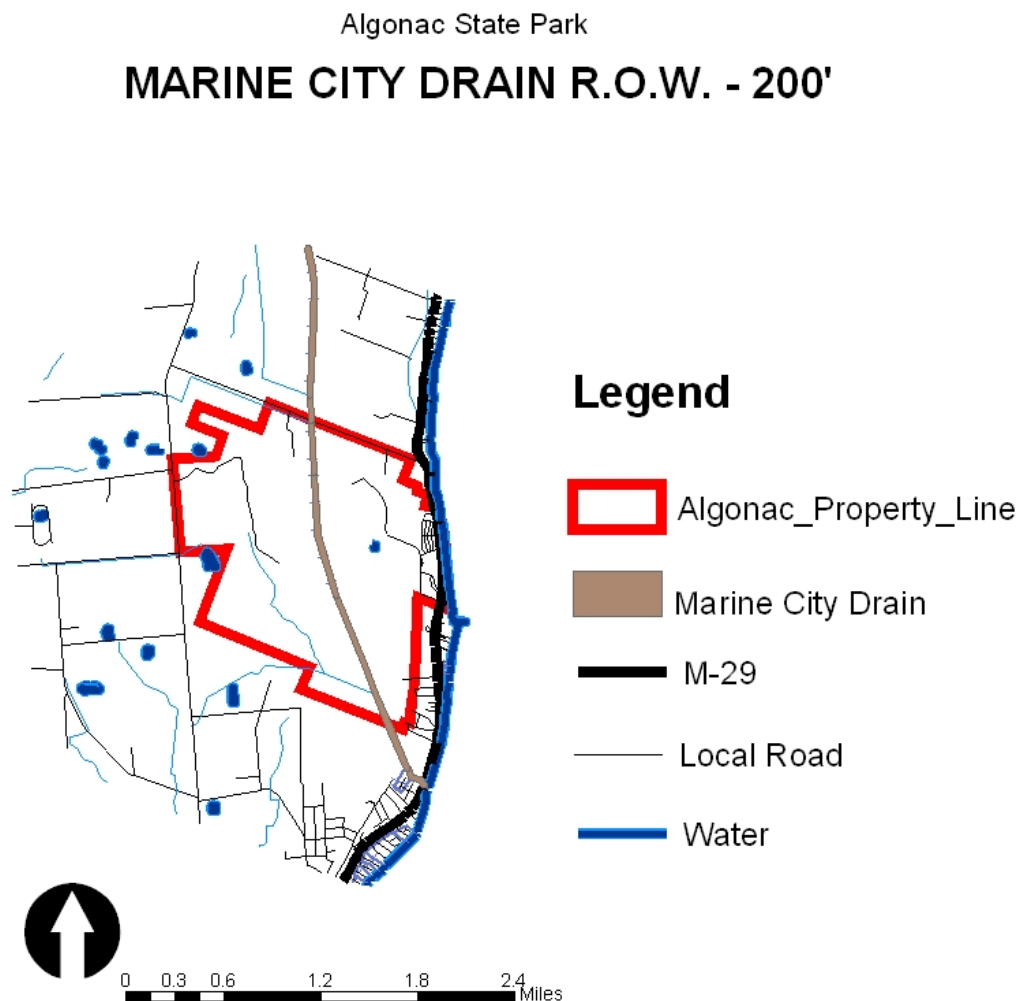
- (a) Any alteration of vegetation except as necessary for appropriate public access.
- (b) Granting an easement for any purpose.
- (c) Exploration for or extraction of minerals.
- (d) A commercial enterprise, utility or permanent road.
- (e) A temporary road, landing of aircraft, use of motor vehicles, motorboats, or other form of mechanical transport, or any structure or installation.
- (f) Motorized equipment (except if authorized by Department for management or conservation purposes)
- (2) If a right-of-way or an easement was granted on land prior to designation under this law, the department may grant an easement along the route of same right-of-way or easement for the installation and maintenance of utilities for gas, electric, telephone, and cable services.
- NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION (NRC) DEDICATED AREA – There are six dedicated areas in Algonac State Park. Four as "Managed Tracts" and two as "Nature Study Areas". These areas by direction of the NRC are managed to preserve and protect the unique natural communities. Compatible development needed for public access and passive use of the areas is allowed (ie. roads, parking, and paths).

(Image from Stewardship Plan Report)

Appendix A.10 - Natural Areas



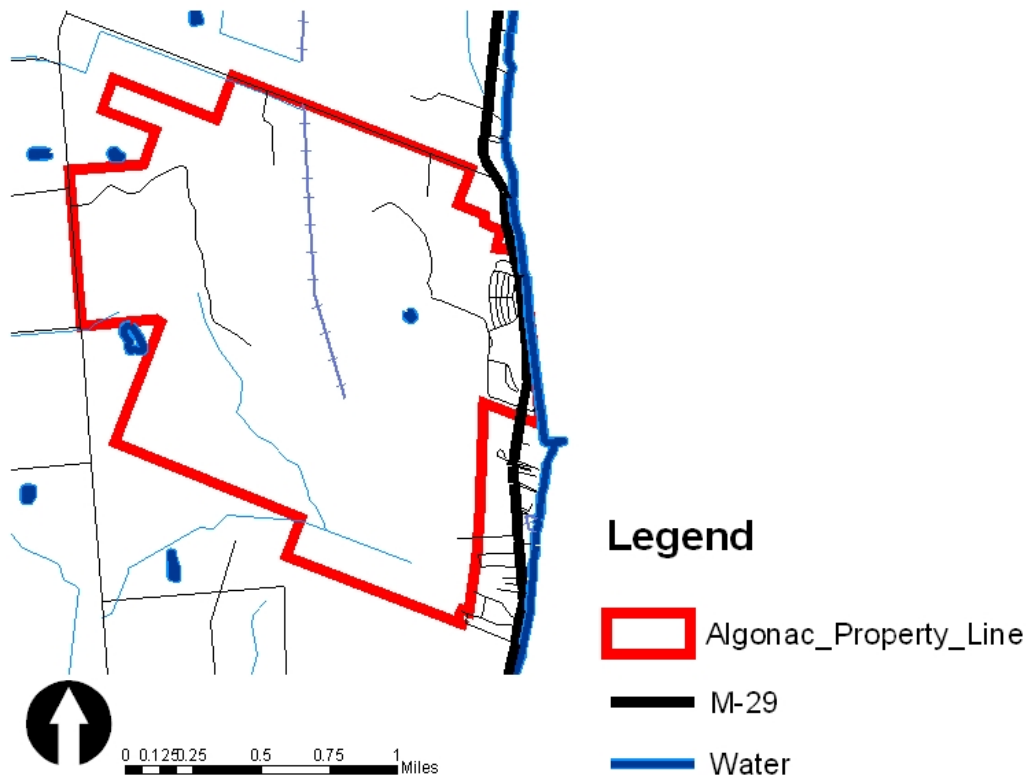
- MARINE CITY DRAIN – RIGHT-OF-WAY – The St. Clair County Drain Commission has rights across Algonac State Park for the maintenance of the Marine City Drain. Records from the Drain Commission indicate a 100' easement on each side of the center line of the Marine City Drain. All drain easements generally give the Drain Commissioner the right to locate, construct, and maintain the drain on the easement, as well as spread the spoils from excavation.



- M-29 MDOT RIGHT-OF-WAY – Right-of-Way for M-29 cuts through the park, separating the shoreline property from the Riverfront Campground and Day-Use area. The ROW is 66' total, 33' on each side from the centerline of road. Along much of the ROW, the edge of the river is within this ROW. Any improvements impacting the ROW are subject to MDOT permit requirements.

Algonac State Park

M-29 R.O.W. - 66'



- MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND (MNRTF) IMPROVEMENTS - Approximately 4,200 feet of paved trail was developed on the old railroad bed through Algonac State Park, as part of the “Bridge to Bay Trail”. This improvement was funded by a grant to St. Clair County through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (TF 97-195), which provides protection of the project purpose (linear trail) through the grant agreement. Any conversion of use for other than the granted project purpose must receive MNRTF Board approval.
- LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) IMPROVEMENTS Federal funds have been utilized for development projects at Algonac State Park. The project purposes for which funding was secured are required to remain intact as a requirement of utilizing that funding source. The specific project purposes funded with LWCF are:
 - (1965) – Toilet/Shower Building with utilities
 - (1973) – General park improvements to include: construction of parking lot and picnic area, pedestrian bridge, installation of vault toilets, water lines, walks, upgrading of existing archery and trap ranges and bituminous surfacing of existing gravel roads.
 - (1978) – Paving of parking areas, roads and entry drive. Construction of underground drainage system to benefit camping areas.
- NORTH AMERICAN WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT (NAWCA) – Grant funding from this source has been used at Algonac SP by the Stewardship program for purposes of controlling invasive species (ie. phragmites) and restoration of the great lakes prairie and oak opening habitats. Provisions of this grant require that following completion of the grant activity, the grant recipient must continue to implement those actions for ten years after the grant period. At Algonac, we will continue under these provisions until the year 2015. The area impacted by the grant is represented by the Primitive Zone.
- LAND OWNERSHIP ISSUES
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – With this federal funding, four parcels were acquired. A 3.5 acre parcel with frontage on the St. Clair River (park manager residence), and three adjacent parcels at the north and west end of the park were acquired for ‘general recreation purposes’. With inclusion of federal LWCF dollars at Algonac (also used for development), the entire park falls under the boundary definition for the fund source, and thereby the entire park is bound by the restrictions of LWCF that protects against “conversion of use”.

- Special Legislation – More than half of the total park acreage has been acquired with this source. It is utilized for general program purposes.
- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) – Is utilized for general program purposes.
- State Game and Fish Fund – Acquisition of lands with this funding source are for purposes of wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities.

LAND ACQUISITION FUNDING SOURCES

